

**State Of Illinois
State Use Committee Meeting
Minutes
December 12, 2014**

Video Conferencing sites:

SIU-C	Stratton Bldg.	JRTC
Lawson Hall, Room 180	Room 500 ½	Room 9-035
Carbondale	Springfield	Chicago

I. Call to Order

Chairman Loftus called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Brynn Henderson conducted roll call.

The following members were present: (Attachment #1 sign in sheet)

Mitzi Loftus: Stratton Springfield
Kacy Bassett: JRTC Chicago
Seymour Bryson: SIU-E Carbondale
Richard W. Gloede: Stratton Springfield
Chris Dickey: Stratton Springfield
Dan Strick: JRTC Chicago
Audrey McCrimon: JRTC Chicago

Chairman Loftus announced that there was a quorum present.

Chairman Loftus stated that she toured The Chicago Lighthouse and was very impressed; she would like to do more visits to other workshops.

III. Approval of the August 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Loftus confirmed the members had reviewed the Minutes and that there were no proposed corrections. Chairman Loftus called for a motion to approve the Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Member Dickey

Second: Member Gloede

Tally of Votes: Members unanimously approved the Minutes.

IV. Review of and Vote on Proposed Contracts (Attachment #2 vote sheet)

Chairman Loftus asked the Committee if everyone had a chance to review the list of contracts that are to be voted on today.

The Committee stated that they did.

Brynn Henderson read aloud the contracts for vote.

After the reading of each contract, Chairman Loftus asked if there were any questions from a member or a public member regarding any contract.

After voting on each contract individually, Chairman Loftus called for a motion to approve the list of contracts read aloud by Brynn Henderson

Motion to approve: Member Dickey

To second: Member Gloede

Tally of Votes: The contracts were unanimously voted

Member Strick announced that Member Bassett had arrived to the meeting.

Chairman Loftus asked Member Bassett if he reviewed the contracts and would like to vote on them.

Member Bassett stated that he had and voted yes to all contracts and submitted a digital copy.

V. New Business

Chairman Loftus stated that Member Strick would like to discuss the Federal Executive Order regarding minimum wage and in light of that she would also like to bring up the Employment First Initiative and asked if Chima Enyia, Chief Operating Officer to speak on that.

Member Strick stated that the Federal Government, President Obama signed a new Executive Order which states that any federal contract that receives federal funds must pay the new minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour effective Jan 1, 2015. It specifically talks about people with disabilities and the 14c waivers with the Department of Labor, even if the organizations have the 14c waiver, they are still expected to use the new minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour. Member Strick suggested that we revisit the 14c waiver since it is a State Use requirement.

Chairman Loftus asked the members if everyone had a chance to read the Executive Order that was included in the packet and the Employment First Initiative. She gave a short narrative of what she was aware of at this time; Illinois decided to move forward in conjunction with the stance on sheltered workshops regarding minimum wage, that to date nothing has been decided.

Chima Enyia, Chief Operating Officer, CMS stated that there has been several discussions on the Federal Executive Order on the federal level and now on the State level. Some of the discussion were; integrated working environment and also minimum wage, both of which we have not committed to but committed to having conversations with the stakeholders to get a resolution to push the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. He stated that yes; the increase minimum wage is being considered and is on the table but has not been decided. There was an organization named IARF (Illinois Association for Rehab Facilities) that came to the Employment First meeting and shared their thoughts, there will be more meetings with them and also state level personnel to discuss these issues and to bring the current statute up to date.

Chairman Loftus stated that she believes that the workshops pays minimum wage or more in a lot of situations but there are still a handful of contracts that pay the piecemeal pricing; she asked the Committee if anyone had any ideas how this might affect them.

Chairman Loftus announced that Tom Colclasure from Shelby County Community Services was here and asked him if he would like to speak to this.

Tom Colclasure stated that special minimum wages must be commensurate wage rates, based on the worker's individual productivity, no matter how limited, in proportion to the wage and productivity of experienced workers who do not have disabilities performing essentially the same type, quality and quantity of work in the geographic area from which the labor force of the community is drawn. Time studies are performed for each job in a manner prescribed by DOL to determine the standard for workers who do not have disabilities. The time study allows an objective gauge against which the productivity of the worker with a disability is measured. Also, a prevailing wage is established for each job by surveying the wage paid to experience workers who do not have disabilities for the same or similar work and who are performing such work in the area. He also stated that at a minimum, the productivity of hourly paid workers must be reevaluated every six months and a new prevailing wage survey must be at least every twelve months.

There was also some discussion about the percentage rate of vs minimum wage rate; IARF should have this information.

Chima Enyia recommends that creating a narrative that is relative to today and that everyone understands how all the process works in a way that he can convey it to legislatures and other groups so that they understand the concerns the committee has. He suggests two items 1) create a narrative around current operations and 2) identify team members in the form of organizations that allow us to advocate on the committee's behalf. Chima also stated that he will give updates where the Governor is on this subject and will also notify the Committee when the next meeting will be.

Chairman Loftus asked the Committee to submit points of concerns to her so that she could submit them out for comment. She also stated that there were two more items on the Agenda that needed to be addressed; the phone in process and the Annual Report.

Motion to Approve: Member Dickey

To Second: Member Gloede

Tally of Votes: Members unanimously approved the Phone in Process.

Chairman Loftus announced that only one member responded to the Annual Report and if there were no other suggestions that she would submit it in January to the Governor's Office.

VI. Public /Vendor Comments

No comments by Public or Vendors.

VII. Future Meeting Date

Chairman Loftus stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 1:30.
The next scheduled meeting dates are as following:

January 15, 2015

April 14, 2015

May 13, 2015

June 10, 2015

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Loftus called for motion to adjourn.

Motion to Approve: Member Gloede

Second: Member Dickey

Tally of Votes: Members unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

Chairman Loftus announced the motion to adjourn was approved and adjourned the meeting at 3:15 P.M.

